Lakeland launched an innovative new experiential learning opportunity this past spring that will better position students for post-graduation employment.

Lakeland’s new student-run business enterprise will allow students to create, develop, manage and lead business ventures while developing the next generation of emerging leaders.

“This new venture will put students in positions to make real-world business decisions, lead teams of their peers and be responsible for all aspects of the businesses from financial success to marketing strategies,” said Scott Nieburg, CEO, Lakeshore Community Health Care.

The executive team includes:

• Dave Sachse, general manager & wine maker, The Blind Horse
• Jennifer Krugel, HR business partner, Rockline Industries
• Amanda Brandt, assistant professor of graphic design, Lakeland University
• Dante Williams, general manager & wine maker, The Blind Horse
• Curtiss Dokey, director of innovation & engagement, FreshTech Innovation/Sheboygan County Economic Development Corporation
• Kristin Stearns, assistant professor of marketing, Sheboygan Area School District
• Nona Beining, customer insights consultant, Securian Financial
• Monique Brickham, assistant professor of graphic design, Lakeland University
• Nick O’Brien, director of innovation & engagement, FreshTech Innovation/Sheboygan County Economic Development Corporation
• Amanda Brandt, assistant professor of graphic design, Lakeland University
• Sara Hanneman, of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., serves as President of Develop U & Events, working to develop opportunities for professional and personal development and continued training, and see opportunities for event planning revenue sources and manage all aspects of events. She is on track to graduate in May of 2022 with a major in business administration and a digital marketing emphasis.
• Caritas Dekem, of Menomonee Falls, Wis., serves as the Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer and is responsible for identifying and implementing internal and external Lakeland student-run business (SRB) opportunities for financial growth. He is on track to graduate in May of 2022 with an accounting major.
• Amanda Brandt, of Kiel, Wis., serves as Chief Marketing Officer and is responsible for successfully developing and implementing marketing strategies to help achieve the student-run businesses objectives. She is on track to graduate in May of 2022 with a double major in business administration and marketing.

Lakeland also announced its inaugural board of Directors that will help guide the institutions new SRB operation. The board includes leaders from a variety of Midwest businesses and organizations to help guide the student leadership team in its work. The board will work directly with the student executives, overseeing high-level direction, policy and strategy of the student-run business ventures.

The inaugural board includes:

• Amanda Brandt, assistant professor of graphic design, Lakeland University
• Curtiss Dokey, director of innovation & engagement, FreshTech Innovation/Sheboygan County Economic Development Corporation
• Kristin Stearns, assistant professor of marketing, Sheboygan Area School District
• Nona Beining, customer insights consultant, Securian Financial
• Monique Brickham, assistant professor of graphic design, Lakeland University
• Michael Jabot, coordinator of instructional technology, Sheboygan Area School District

Although we can’t gather as family in person on October 10, we invite you to celebrate your Muskie pride by joining us for a day of social celebration on our Lakeland Facebook page!

1. Carrying COVID

Lakeland worked quickly to react to the challenges of COVID-19 in the spring, and the university has used the summer to prepare to safely welcome students back this fall.

2. Our challenge to change

As the nation grappled with the summer of protests over police brutality and discussions of funding law enforcement, a Lakeland graduate and leader draws from his experience to drive change at LU.

3. Talent importer

Lakeland has a tradition of welcoming students from all over the world to Sheboygan County, and many chose to call this region home. Meet José Araujo, who is thriving locally.

ATTENTION POSTMASTER
Please return any pieces that cannot be forwarded that include a new address. If you are unable to forward a piece and there is no new address available, please discard the magazine. Thank you!

Stay at Home

Oct. 10, 2020
lakeland.edu/homecoming
COVID-19 had us all feeling like

FISH OUT OF WATER

Considering that Lakeland has existed for 158 years, the ability for students and employees to say they were part of a historic event on campus is relatively common.

COVID-19 provided that dubious history as, like schools all over the world, Lake- land moved quickly to respond to the corona- virus and the rapid-changing environment it continues to create. Keeping students, employees and, when appropriate, alumni and guests, safe was a primary factor in de- cision making, as well as the need to deliver the ability for students to be in the best posi- tion to finish their spring semester classes.

Often, Lakeland had plans in place and needed to live at Lakeland for a variety of reasons. A team that included Security, Cam- pus Life and Dining Services provided sup- port to them, and all meals were served to- go so students could eat in their rooms. 

It was an especially tough blow for Lake- land’s seniors, who were robbed of their final weeks on campus together and the memories that come with that experience.

Lakeland extended its spring break by a week to allow faculty teaching in-person classes an additional week to convert them to a virtual enrollment. Faculty collaborated online together to share ideas, and many worked closely with Flossie Siebert, director of online learning, and Andrew Damp, direc- tor of instructional design, who provided crit- ical leadership in helping convert classes to all-online platforms.

Fortunately for Lakeland, the institu- tion was well positioned for the transition. Lakeland was a pioneer in online education, dating back to offering one of the nation’s first complete online degrees in the 1990s. Lakeland’s BlendEd delivery platform, which allows students to access live courses from wherever they have an internet connection, has been among the nation’s most flexible and is very popular with students.

Lakeland’s main campus and its cen- ters were physically closed, but the institu- tion continued to serve students. About 50 students lived in residence halls through the spring semester, a mix of international students who were unable to return to their native country and domestic students who needed to live at Lakeland for a variety of reasons. A team that included Security, Cam- pus Life and Dining Services provided sup- port to them, and all meals were served to- go so students could eat in their rooms.

Lakeland launched a COVID-19 emer- gency fund to help support students who were suffering negative financial impacts from the virus or needed some help in getting access to computers to access their classes. The Lakeland family responded, and more than $50,000 was raised from more than 175 donors to benefit these students. Lakeland also received $1.3 million in federal CARES Act funding, half of which was distributed di- rectly to students. The other half was used to address a variety of COVID-19 related expenses, including a loss of $1.3 million in room and board refunds to students who did not return to campus after spring break.

Most employees worked remotely as homes turned into makeshift offices and Mi- crosoft Teams and Zoom meetings became commonplace. Faculty and students worked closely together to finish the semester and overcome various challenges. Lakeland’s strong community connections were on full dis- play, and there were numerous kudos from students as part of a post-semester student survey. There they thanked specific faculty and staff members for going above and be- yond to help them finish the semester.

Lakeland’s admissions team, faced with the challenge of not being able to invite prospective students to campus for a tour, quickly rolled out virtual campus visits, which proved very popular.

Mental health was also a priority, and Lakeland’s counseling staff offered virtu- al and phone sessions with students who needed some additional support. LU’s Suc- cess Coaches also created a variety of vir- tual programs so students were engaged in more than just academic pursuits.

The communications and marketing staffs created a great deal of content to keep people informed and engaged. The annual Academic Honors banquet, a popular spring event, was moved online as faculty present- ers did videos of their award presentations which were shared on Lakeland’s website and social media. The Lakeland Concert Band also created several virtual mini-con- cer ts as Professor Evan Chancellor worked with students from their homes to record their individual parts and bring them to- gether into finished performances that were shared online.

In early May, Holy Family (formerly Sil- ver Lake) College in Manitowoc abruptly an- nounced that it would be permanently closing at the end of the summer. Lakeland moved quickly, and in less than 24 hours from the announcement an agreement was in place allowing Holy Family students to transfer to Lakeland to complete their degrees.

As this issue of the magazine goes to press, Lakeland is creating plans to safely re- open its locations for the fall semester. Sum- mer courses were conducted virtually, as was LU’s Blue & Gold Days orientation activities and as Lakeland’s Opus program, which pro- vides eight weeks of instruction and mentor- ing to help some incoming freshmen prepare for life at Lakeland.

Graduation was held virtually in August as the institution was unable to deliver a tra- ditional in-person ceremony due to public health restrictions.

Lakeland planned to hold in-person fall semester classes at its locations with stu- dents sitting 6 feet apart and masks being required in a number of environments.

In late July, the Northern Athletics Col- legiate Conference announced that all con- ference regular-season competitions and championship events are postponed through Dec. 31, 2020. There will still be out-of- season practices and conditioning during the fall semester. Each school will make those decisions, including the possibility of fall non-conference competitions, if circum- stances permit.

Twins Chanel and Chassity Bradford, juniors from Lincoln Park, Mich., and their peers will often be in masks this fall when students return to campus.
LUJ tackles COVID challenges

COVID-19 is, of course, a global pandemic, so it also impacted Lake- land University’s campus in Tokyo, Japan. LUJ transitioned all classes to online in March, and faculty began working from home, which is continu- ing through the summer semester.

LUJ staff and administrators have gone through phases of work-from- home, mainly determined by the de- partment and type of work. For the summer, the majority of staff and de- partments have been working from home most days. Certain departments, such as accounting, recruitment and specific management, have been com- ing to the campus more frequently due to the nature of the work.

The Tokyo area decreased the state of emergency in late May, al- lowing for the re-opening of certain non-essential businesses, but still giv- ing strict recommendations for em- ployees to work from home whenever possible and to avoid heavy commut- ing times as best they can. LUJ cam- pus hours have been strictly limited to only 11 a.m.-4 p.m. to avoid the heavy commuting times in Tokyo.

LUJ students, faculty, and staff re- sponded to the changes with the high- est levels of understanding, flexibility and cooperation. The top priority from the beginning was everyone’s health, safety and ability to continue their academic goals and progress. Virtual meetings became the theme as col- leagues turned to virtual platforms to stay connected and keep the semester moving forward.

Faculty quickly transitioned to online classes and put in countless hours get- ting trained in the virtual platform Black- board. Staff from the Wisconsin main campus held twice-weekly training ses- sions that continue through the summer.

Getting students trained and ad- justed for successful engagement in online classes took some time. Stu- dents were given a variety of videos and guidelines to help them work through any issues, along with faculty and staff support and trouble-shooting support from the IT department at the main campus in Wisconsin.

The students responded exception- ally,” said LUJ Chief Operating Officer Charlie Stockman ’05. “Like all university students, they would love nothing more than to be in classes and going through the more traditional college experience, but they seem to be very aware and un-derstanding of the situation and risks of re-opening too quickly.”

Students and faculty feedback and surveys showed exceptional at- tendance rates for the online classes, high levels of participation and class engagement and an overall feeling of “quality education” being continued.

“The students’ mental health was al- ways a concern, and LUJ’s profession- al counselors made herself available via online meetings. Students also receive various tips, advice and updates from the Student Affairs department on cop- ing with issues they may be facing. The Student Affairs office has held various group sessions - mainly targeting the newest students - to get feedback and offer support.

New student orientations, place- ment testing and course registration were all held online for the first time. Orientation videos, individual and group Zoom meetings, and online tests were all developed to ensure students re- ceived the same support and services without the need to visit the campus.

For the summer semester, class participation and student engagement have been high in virtual classes, and the campus recently re-opened for stu- dents to access the library and visit ad- ministrative offices by appointment.

Looking ahead to the fall semester, the campus is being prepared for some level of re-opening that will include so- cial distancing in classroom and public areas, posting guidelines around cam- pus, stocking sanitation supplies and masks and other precautions.

“The major challenge is taking into consideration the inescapable train commute to the campus during this crit- ical time,” Stockman said. “The Shin- juluku station has more commuters pass through each day than any other station in the world. As we look to schedule any classes being considered for in-person in the fall, we will try to avoid the even- ning and evening commute times.”

In April, the university learned it has received a $35.4 million fixed-rate loan in- terest from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development division. This loan will finance the largest investment in the main campus in the in- stitution’s 158-year history.

LakeLand will use $26 million to con- struct two new residence halls to serve freshmen and sophomores, a water tower and related infrastructure. The remaining $9.4 million will be used to refinance the university’s existing long-term debt.

The two identical residence halls will be located on the area south of the Younger Family Campus Center on the sites currently occupied by decades-old Grosshuesch and Muehlmeier Halls, which will both be demolished. LakeLand estimates the first new resi- dence hall will be open for the fall of 2022, and the second for the fall of 2023. These two new halls will provide LakeLand with 396 beds, compared to 291 beds avail- able in the halls they will replace – A.M. Krueger, Muehlmeier, Grosshuesch, Friedli and Hofer (the Suites).

The Suites will also be demolished. The future of A.M. Krueger is to be deter- mined.

“In light of the uneasiness we are all feeling during the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a transformational investment that is the best possible news for LakeLand,” said LU President David Black.

“This will be LakeLand’s single most comprehensive project and physical in- vestment in a main campus that was founded in 1862. And, coupled with the recent multi-million dollar renovations of the Younger Family Campus Center and Taylor Field and the advent of our Cooper- ative Education program, this investment will position LakeLand for future growth for decades to come.”

Black noted that LakeLand’s current freshmen and sophomore residence halls are approximately half a century old and are in need of significant deferred main- tenance.

“It took tremendous effort on the part of many employees and students to real- ize this vision,” Black said. “We are also thankful to our Board of Trustees for their leadership and support.”

The USDA funds, provided through the Community Facilities Direct Loan pro- gram, are designed to develop essential community facilities and foster economic growth and development in rural commu- nities across the country.

Community leaders wrote letters of support during the USDA application pro- cess in support of the project and of Lake- land’s importance as an economic driver to the region. ✷

A transformational investment
Editor’s note: David Simon, Jr. ’99 grew up in Detroit, Mich., and graduated from Lakeland in 1999. Following service in law enforcement, he returned to Lakeland in 2010 and served as director of campus safety and security before being promoted to vice president for campus life in 2019. We invited David to share his personal journey and his vision for Lakeland.

Growing up in Detroit, Mich., I have personally experienced unjust police brutality and racial profiling starting at the early age of 15. I remember I was just walking to the bus stop from football practice when four white officers from the Detroit Police Gang Squad unit known as the “Big Four” stopped in front of me with their lights on. They jumped out their vehicle, approached me and I was punched in the face and thrown to the ground because I fit a description. Mind you, I was 15 years old, wearing a sweaty t-shirt and shorts and holding a milk gallon jug used for water. The city bus driver who would wait for me got off the bus to tell officers that what they were doing was unnecessary. The reply he received was, “Get your *SS back on the bus, or you will be next.”

Our challenge to change
By David R. Simon, Jr. ’99
After this particular incident, I developed a hatred for the very department of officers that was supposed to be heroic, admirable and protectors. This ingrained anger in me manifested itself through an inability to feel the joy that I once felt when I was the Hip Hop group N.W.A.’s “F’k the Police,” Public Enemy’s “Fight the Power,” Tupac Shakur, and a host of artists who reported the streets these same plights for many years. This was my generation’s version of Marvin Gaye’s “What’s Going On?” the 1960s song inspired by violence and police brutality.

I would go on to experience countless more incidents before leaving the state for college. This was the driving force behind my parents to get me out of Detroit, because they feared growing up in a crime- and drug-impact neighborhood and exposed to police violence that the odds for my survival were stacked against me.

But instead of complaining and continuing to fuel a hatred, these experiences motivated me to do something about it. I became a police officer in the exact city where this ingrained hatred started. I became a police officer in the exact city in America.

I demonstrated humility when working in the same type of course. I feel a personal connection to that experience and our voice was heard, but not delivered in the context it was asked for.

But, in order for us to do so, we need to talk directly with our students so that we can hear them and see the world through their lens.

I challenge my Lakeland family to intentionally humble themselves, open their hearts and minds and be willing to learn, and learn from each other, so that we can progressively advance together and be the Lakeland that we all long for. Know that this will be a marathon, not a sprint, as we change our culture so that will embrace every one, including those who come after us, so that they are mentored into a new culture that respects all. In the words of our President, David Black, be willing to know who is thy neighbor.

We will know we are making progress when diversity, inclusion, and equity are no longer a topic of discussion, but rather, they are in our hearts and actions.

This is just one shared example from my life and just one of countless stories of those who have experienced the same exact situation in America’s inner cities as well as when they cross the border streets into suburban America.

A change for Lakeland

Approximately 25 years ago, our Black Student Union (I was an officer), the Beta Sigma Omega fraternity as well as allies that consisted of non-black and brown students circulated a written petition to have a “Black American accredited studies course” added to Lakeland’s academic curriculum. Our voice was heard, but not taken seriously. A faculty ally, Professor Don Francis, who was teaching a course entitled Social Change that I was taking at the time, came to our aid. I shared with Dr. Francis our plight to have a course taught at Lakeland, and he created the platform for this discussion to take place with a Lakeland key stakeholder in academia.

The class was developed, but not delivered in the context it was asked for. So, 25 years later, here we are again.

I believe we are at a time when humility and humanity is at its most frail point. We need to attack this problem head on! It’s time we have the necessary conversations without feeling offended or offending others. The ability for Lakeland faculty, staff, administrators, and students to have the difficult, but important conversations around racial injustice is critical for a safe and healthy learning environment.

But, in order for us to do so, we will need to listen to our students, not just hear them. In order for us to capture this moment, this can no longer be high level conversations, because it will not yield any results. We need to talk directly with our students so that we can hear them and see the world through their lens.

The plaza will be a reminder of Lakeland’s quest for social justice, equity, diversity and inclusion. It will be used as a space where the Lakeland family can gather to celebrate our diversity and to keep having important conversations. It is one of the most used entrances on campus, an area that will become busier when Lakeland’s two new residence halls are completed in the early 2020s.

Leaders from Lakeland’s Black Student Union and Beta Sigma Omega fraternity joined in a short program as part of the celebration.

BSU President Jasmine Smith said, “The creation of a plaza dedicated to the Black Lives Matter movement is an advancement towards the right direction. There are steps to this process and obstacles we must overcome. In order to receive the change you want, you have to advocate, let your voices be heard and initiate it. Just because we have a dedicated place for a movement that supports and represents Black people doesn’t mean our work stops here. This plaza is a reminder of our past, the work that is being done and the work we need to continue to do.”

Betta Sigma Omega fraternity President Brice Kensey said, “The Rosa Parks & John Lewis Plaza is one of many steps in creating change. The Plaza is a symbol of hope for our future to become brighter. This will be a place to unify the diverse, gain a level of understanding and a place to step out of your comfort zone. Let’s continue to stand together to fight for justice and equality so that our voices don’t become irrelevant, but push for racial discrimination to become obsolete.”

Lakeland has pledged to listen, learn and take action to improve. A Zoom meeting was initiated by students in mid-June who wanted to take control of their cause for justice at Lakeland to help advise Lakeland on how it can improve. More conversations will continue.

Lakeland also put in place several action steps, some in progress and some beginning when classes start this fall:

- Members of LU’s administrative team will participate in a year-long diversity, equity and inclusion training designed and led by Campus Chaplain and Unicr Ethicist in Residence the Rev. Julie A. Mavity Maddalena, Ph.D., and Le’Shay Guy ’16, LU’s new director of multicultural affairs. The goal of this training is to understand how white supremacy and other forms of oppression function on interpersonal, ideological and institutional levels and how LU can address these dynamics to create a more equitable and inclusive campus environment. This work will enable Lakeland to recruit, retain and develop a more diverse campus community. It will also lead to additional training for other Lakeland employees who will focus on implicit bias and microaggressions.

- Lakeland will be planning some LEAP sessions for this academic year that will focus on listening, learning and responding to racism. These will be open to students, faculty and staff.

- This fall, Professor Peter Sattler will be teaching ENG 225: Multicultural American Literature, a course that will focus exclusively upon Black literary and artistic expression, ranging from fiction and oratory to poetry and film. Lakeland is exploring other classes related to Black history and related topics.

- As part of Lakeland’s institutional strategic plan, a climate survey of students, faculty and staff will be conducted this fall with an emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion. The survey has been followed up with listening sessions with Lakeland’s president that will dig deeper into themes expressed in the survey.

- Earlier this year, Lakeland announced the formation of a Committee on Mission & Culture, and that group has met and started its work. Part of the work of this group is making sure that diversity and inclusion are integrated in all Lakeland policies and driving decision-making practices.
When José Araujo made his first visit to Lakeland in April of 2003 to visit his younger brother, Andres, he had no idea that his connection to what was initially his brother’s school would end up shaping his life.

Now, 17 years later, José, who received a bachelor’s (2005) and master’s degree (2009) from Lakeland, is enjoying life locally and thriving as associate channel marketing manager for Latin America at Kohler Co. and a community leader.

Andres, a 2006 and 2008 MBA Lakeland graduate, started classes at Lakeland in January of 2003, and José was participating in a work and travel program for international college students in New Hampshire. During a short visit to Lakeland, he met Andres’ closest friends, many of whom would become his own friends. He spoke to some professors and staff and got a feel for what Lakeland had to offer.

“At the time, I was a student at one of the largest universities in Peru, where I was majoring in science communications,” José said. “The classes there were rather large – in some lectures we had over 150 students. Professors were not accessible and the content was delivered in a ‘one size fits all’ way, which made for a very non-personalized experience.”

“At Lakeland, students are recognized and valued for their individuality. Professors and staff are readily available and excited to help, making for a more personalized experience and allowing students to reach their own goals. This was very appealing to me, and one of the main reasons why I decided to transfer.”

José fondly recalls connecting with a number of faculty members, including the late J. Garland Schluctt, Adina Schwartz, Elizabeth Shumway, Martha Schott, Jim Kudek and Charles Stockman, as well as Mark Wagner and Caroline Korhonen from the dining services staff and members of the maintenance crew, with whom he worked during the summers.

“Being able to interact and get to know people from all over the world was the most enriching for me,” said Araujo, who is giving back to Lakeland now as a member of LU’s Board of Trustees. “This allowed me to make lifelong friendships with people from different backgrounds and amazing life stories.”

“Learning about other cultures, how to share a living space with someone that may not think or do things like you are used to and realizing how people can sometimes be more alike than different, even though they come from the opposite side of the planet, was really eye-opening.”

The decision to settle locally took root when Araujo married his wife, Suki, in 2006, and the two decided that Sheboygan County, with its access to professional opportunities, safety, great schools, entertainment and activities, would be a great place to start a family.

“It is impressive to me that in a community of its size, there is such concentration of world-class companies that are leaders in their industry,” Araujo said. “Kohler, Sargentino, Johnsonville, Bemis, Acuity, American Orthodontics are just a few corporations headquartered in Sheboygan County that offer an unbelievable amount of opportunities for professionals from all trades, levels of experience and interests.”

Araujo has put together an impressive resume since graduation. Prior to joining Kohler in 2015, he was program director for Partners for Community Development, Inc., in Sheboygan, and later he was senior associate director of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin. He has served Sheboygan County on a number of non-profit boards, and in 2019 he was named the Hispanic Professional of Greater Milwaukee’s Community Leadership Award Winner.

In his current role, Araujo and his team are responsible for communications and the vitality of the Kohler brand in Latin America, including Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and South America (excluding Brazil). Araujo and his team focus on growing Kohler’s brand recognition in the region through a variety of branding activities and tactics, from showroom displays to social media and print publications, events and promotions.

His role at Kohler has Araujo interacting with people from all over the world on a regular basis, and he says his ability to successfully establish positive working relationships, communicate effectively and take into account nuances that are important to ensure the success of the business were honed at Lakeland.

“Aside from the academics, having the opportunity to live with people from different countries and cultural backgrounds taught me to be open minded, respectful of other cultures and beliefs and to analyze why people may act or do things differently,” he said. 
Student Success

Accounting

Lakeland University is known for having a strong accounting program, and a number of students currently enrolled have impressive resumes which have them positioned for post-graduation success.

Of the 17 students enrolled last fall in advanced financial reporting, seven will graduate in less than four years, including three students who will graduate in just three years.

“I am so impressed with these students,” said Brett Killion, Lakeland’s associate professor of accounting. “They have all done a great job maximizing their Lakeland experience and are great role models of what is capable within our program.

“We’re also grateful to our corporate partners and all the incredible opportunities they provide for our students. They play a big role in the success of our program and setting up our students for post-graduation success.

Here’s a look at the impressive accomplishments of some recent graduates and some upper class students currently enrolled in Lakeland’s accounting program:

Erin Iwanski
- Graduated in three years plus one semester last December and started full-time work for CliftonLarsonAllen in the Sheboygan office.
- Had two tax internships at CliftonLarsonAllen and an international accounting internship in Costa Rica this past summer.

Mason Kolosz
- Graduated in three years in May and started full-time work for CliftonLarsonAllen in the Sheboygan office.

Logan Lisowski
- Graduated in three years in May and is scheduled to start full-time work for Kohler Co. in September.
- Had an internship this past summer with Kohler Co.

Trent Nickel
- A junior who is on track to earn a bachelor’s degree and master of business administration degree in five years.
- Had an internship with Kohler Co. last summer and was scheduled for second internship there this summer before it was canceled due to COVID-19. Also served an internship at Glacier Transit.

Spencer Miesfield
- A junior who will graduate in four years.
- Has an internship next semester with Fromm Accounting in Kiel, Wis.
- Has second accounting internship this summer with Curt Joa.

Jolene Halbach
- Will graduate in three years plus one semester.
- Had an internship with CliftonLarsonAllen last year.
- Had a full-time internship in Green Bay this spring with Hawkins Ash CPAs in Green Bay, Wis.
- Has an internship this summer with Sargent.
- Will graduate debt free in December 2020.

Coleen Nolan
- Graduating in four years.
- Following a spring internship with Huberty CPAs, had summer internship with Huberty as a data analyst.

Sarah Thomas
- Graduated in three years last December and was hired full-time in the accounting department at Curt Joa last September.
- Had internships with CliftonLarsonAllen in addition to Curt Joa.

Ethan Richmond
- Graduated in three years in May.
- Had an internship last year with Bemis, then interned in the spring at Kohler in their international tax department.

Azucel Sanchez Beltran
- Served a 1.5-year cooperative education experience with Masters Gallery.
- Had an internship in the spring with Huberty CPAs.
- Graduated in May 2020 and will start working with Huberty this summer.

Kayla Hemb
- Graduated in three years and one semester last December and beat out 50 applicants to be a financial analyst at Fiserv in Brookfield.
- Served an internship with Veritas Financial.

Ethan Richmond
- Graduated in three years in May.
- Had an internship last year with Bemis, then interned in the spring at Kohler in their international tax department.

Andrew L’Empeour
- Graduated in May and is working full time for CliftonLarsonAllen in their Fond du Lac office.
- Served a tax internship last spring at CliftonLarsonAllen.

Shosei Suzuki
- Transfer from Lakeland University-Japan.
- Graduated in May 2020. Will start full-time work for Debitze (a “Big Four” accounting firm) soon in Japan. He already passed the FAR section of the CPA Exam a few months ago when he was still a Lakeland student. He received employment offers from two other “Big Four” firms.
- Served an accounting internship last summer in Japan.

Biochemistry

Lakeland biochemistry students Tegan Schneider and Mitchel Larsen presented their research in the fall at the 50th annual Society for Neuroscience (SfN) meeting in Chicago.

“This national meeting, which was attended by more than 27,000 people, allowed the students to share their work with neuroscientists from around the world, as well as learn about all of the different work being done in the field. They were joined at the meeting by LU Assistant Professor of Biochemistry Jered McGivern.

“The work by Schneider and Larsen, which was conducted with McGivern, was part of Lakeland’s highly regarded Lakeland Undergraduate Research Experience (LURE) summer research program.

“The students used a donated skin sample from an adult female to make brain tissue in a dish. The goal of their work was better understanding how neuronal signaling compounds (called neurotransmitters) are regulated in the brain.

“The tissue we received was chemically “triggered” into thinking it was fetal tissue, and then we chemically directed those cells to develop into brain tissue,” McGivern said. “The whole system is still in the exploratory stage where Tegan and Mitchel are determining if this tissue acts in a way that is consistent with how normal human brain tissue might work.

“Our hope is that this type of model system can be used to not only understand normal brain function, but also in circumstances where there are defects or diseases. I am really proud of the work they’re doing. It’s always good to hear that people were surprised that these were not graduate students.”

The students were able to attend the meeting thanks to a gift from 1969 graduate Cliff Feldmann, a generous benefactor for a number of programs in Lakeland’s School of Business, Sciences & Technology.
Lakeland’s Exercise Science program continues to distinguish itself as one of the nation’s leading programs. The Lakeland Exercise Science program is led by Associate Professor of Exercise Science William Ebben and his students had six papers accepted for presentation at the 38th International Society of Biomechanics in Sports Conference in Liverpool, England.

While the conference has been cancelled due to the pandemic, the papers will be published in the “Proceedings of the 38th International Society of Biomechanics in Sports Conference.”

Lakeland students who were lead authors include Alicia Thone (two papers), Hunter Friek (two papers), Madison Blankenship and Megan Gold. Frisk and Blankenship are co-authors on papers.

Last summer, Lakeland’s exercise science research team presented more research posters than any other participant at the International Society of Biomechanics in Sports 37th Annual Conference, in Oxford, Ohio. Lakeland students topped the 63 universities, medical organizations, sports institutes and research organizations from throughout the world who presented poster research.

When taking into consideration all formats of research presented by representatives of 127 universities, medical organizations, sports institutes and research organizations at this conference, Lakeland was tied for the third most research presentations.

“Two years ago, I told our provost, Meg Albrink, and my dean, Brian Frink, that the goal was for Lakeland to be in the top 5 percent of all universities and organizations presenting research at this prestigious international conference. We ended up in the top 2.4 percent,” Ebben said.

“It is a testament to the work of the students and the outstanding support the university provides for high impact educational experiences such as research, including ample funding to support student travel expenses to international conferences.”

Ebben said the program’s successes have raised the profile of the university and has led to program graduates having a remarkable rate of success for gaining admissions to graduate and professional schools.

Lakeland hospitality management students competed in a Battle of the Universities in the Fall at the Hotel ROI conference in Chicago. Lakeland competed against Florida International University, Northwestern Ohio University and University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley.

Dani Chismarick, Emma Lehr, Olivia Parrott, Trent Nelson and Nate Vanderwaal worked together as a team to present a hotel brand concept which included a construction plan, marketing plan, competitive analysis, restaurant concept, a plan for return on investment and vision for franchising in the future. Their brand concept was a student-operated hotel on Lakeland’s campus named Lodge 1862.

The project was voluntary and the students completed the work on their own time outside of their coursework.

“I’m incredibly proud of the work these ladies and gentlemen did,” said Britanni Meinnert, Lakeland’s instructor of hospitality management. “They came together as a team and completed a comprehensive brand concept in less than a month. The plan is incredibly viable, as well as unique. These students utilized all their learning of business and presentation skills and applied it into this project.”

Lakeland hospitality management students in 2020

Undergraduate Hospitality Management student Jamie Longmiller from Sheboygan, Wis., was selected as a top-five finalist in the 209th World Congress of Hotel & Tourism Management in Las Vegas.

Jamie Longmiller
Sheboygan, Wis.
Master of Science in Leadership & Organizational Development

“I currently serve as the HR manager at Shoreline Credit Union. I look forward to continuing my career with such a great organization and moving my way into an executive position at a local financial institution or finish my Ph.D. in psychology and work with soldiers that have PTSD.”

Damien Mohorne Sr.
Two Rivers, Wis.
Master of Business Administration

Celebrating the class of 2020

Lakeland’s Class of 2020 has more than 700 unique success stories of graduates ready to dive into the next chapters of their lives. Here’s a sample of the talented Muskies ready to use their Lakeland education.

As a lifelong learner who is constantly striving for personal improvement and professional growth, the knowledge I have gained with the Master of Science in Leadership and Organizational Development program is immeasurable. After graduation I plan to incorporate the tools I have learned to further my success, the success of my peers, my company and our community.

Jamie Longmiller
Sheboygan, Wis.
Master of Science in Leadership & Organizational Development

Lakeland as a whole has given me all the tools and confidence to be successful. After graduation I accepted a position at United Shore in Pontiac, Mich., where I will be part of their graphic design team. A huge thank you to everyone at Lakeland who helped me achieve this lifelong goal. I will forever owe so much to you.

Lexi Upson
Waterford, Mich.
Bachelor’s in marketing

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Damien Mohorne Sr.
Two Rivers, Wis.
Master of Business Administration
"I will continue working for Masters Gallery Foods in an export and data synchronization capacity. With my degree, I hope to grow my current role and stay a valued member of the Masters Gallery Foods family."

Jen Moehring
Cleveland, Wis.
Bachelor’s in business with international emphasis

"I intend to pursue a career in the law enforcement profession, specifically as a police officer. College has taught me so much more than just textbook material, and I’m beyond excited to work in a profession that has daily interaction with the community."

Rachel Hasko
Racine, Wis.
Bachelor’s in criminal justice

"I’m excited to explore new opportunities this degree will allow, and growing my career at Kohler Co. I’m also looking forward to spending more time with my wife and kids this summer."

Chris Bladorn
Janesville, Wis.
Bachelor’s in business administration

"I will being pursuing a career in law enforcement. I am looking forward to my next graduation ceremony which will be from the police academy. I am really excited to be the change and help build a stronger relationship between the community and law enforcement."

Jaila Cole-Clark
Matteson, Ill.
Bachelor’s in criminal justice

"I plan to continue on with being a therapist and gaining my 3,000 hours at Insight Counseling and Wellness."

Kelly Kendricks
Verona, Wis.
Master of Arts in Counseling

"After attaining my bachelor’s degree, I believe that the MBA program at Lakeland is the next step on my path to advance my career in accounting. During my time as an undergraduate student at Lakeland, I have gained a strong educational background which has prepared me to make an impact upon the field of accounting and the communities around me. I am confident that the MBA program will give me the skills that I need to take the next step in launching my new career."

Klara Ewl
Milwaukee, Wis.
Bachelor’s in accounting

"I love that Lakeland offers this easy way to automatic give monthly donations. I’ve been migrating almost all of my charitable giving to this format, as it makes budgeting so much easier for me, and for the organizations I want to support! I don’t have to try to recall if I’ve already given, and they don’t have to waste their resources reminding me to make my gift. Lakeland has been such a huge part of my life and whom I’ve become, and I feel really good helping ensure that Lakeland will be around for many generations to come."

-Emily Rendall-Araujo ’11 MBA’14

GIVING MADE EASY!

This option allows you to make automatic, recurring gifts online without the hassle of writing a check or buying a stamp!

"Since I graduated from Lakeland with my MBA, I’ve taken a promotion at Froedtert Health as a project manager within the financial engagement team. Project management has always been a skill/specialty that I’ve wanted to develop and make my career. Graduating with my MBA not only introduced me to project management, but the coursework really prepared me for the challenges in this role. I’m excited to grow in this role and see where my path will lead me."

Kyle Graesslin
West Bend, Wis.
Master of Business Administration

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Kyle Graesslin
West Bend, Wis.
Master of Business Administration

Celebrating the class of 2020 cont.
JENNY TANCK
2015 grad leads free yoga

Editor’s Note: Our Mission House/ Lakeland alumni are so generous to their alma mater. This is the first in a new series spotlighting ways that our graduates give back to the university. Jenny (Kjin) Tanck ’15 teaches free weekly vinyasa yoga classes at Lakeland’s Center for Community, Equity and Belonging in Greenhouse Hall. During classes, she helps participants breathe, move and explore the practice of yoga together.

She was introduced to yoga in 2011 during her freshman year at Lakeland thanks to some free yoga classes offered to students.

“I remember arriving to my first class, excited and nervous to try this new practice,” said Tanck, who is a yoga instructor at the Sheboygan Falls YMCA. “What initially brought me to yoga was the physical movement, stress relief and to help cope with my anxiety. I quickly began to realize there was an internal shift, and larger forces within the universe pulling me to my mat.

“As my physical practice evolved, I started noticing the benefits of yoga on the mat and off the mat. And faculty at Lakeland.”

Tanck said it’s a privilege to witness, see, feel and experience all the benefits yoga has to offer. She says yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual practice.

“It helps us peel back the layers to reveal our true, authentic selves, that we are all connected and carriers of light,” Tanck said. “Lakeland students experience their own light and share it with everyone else on campus and out in the world.

“Yoga has taught me that everything you need already resides within you. We all hold the ultimate power to better ourselves, through movement, meditation, breath and mindful living.”

Jenny Tanck

Lakeland adds eSports program

Lakeland landed some national attention in February when the university announced that Ahman Green, best known in Wisconsin for his Hall of Fame career with the Green Bay Packers, was named the first coach of Lakeland’s new eSports program. In addition to his accomplished football career, Green is an eSports entrepreneur and longtime player.

The Packers’ all-time leading rusher has been a gamer dating back to playing ColecoVision when he was a kid. While growing up in Nebraska and becoming a decorated player for the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers, Tecmo Super Bowl and Madden NFL ’97 were two of the games that kept Green rooted in eSports.

“Yoga has taught me that every- thing you need already resides within you. We all hold the ultimate power to better ourselves, through movement, meditation, breath and mindful living.”

“This has been a lifelong passion for me, and I am excited to get the opportunity to come to Lakeland in this new role and grow the university’s program from the ground up,” said Green, a broadcast personality for the professional eSports team Tempo Storm.

“It is amazing how quickly eSports is growing, and how much it has evolved over the years I have been playing. I’m looking forward to talking to gamers about Lakeland and all the university has to offer as we build this program.”

During his 12-year NFL career, Green was a four-time Pro Bowler and two-time All-Pro player. He has been inducted into both the Nebraska and Green Bay Halls of Fame.

After retiring from pro football in 2009, Green’s interest in gaming and the eSports industry grew, and his personality in the industry grew as he hosted a weekly eSports talk show, True Game Fans Network.

Lakeland’s co-ed eSports team will debut this fall and be a member of the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE), which serves as the governing body to more than 150 colleges and universities and sets standards for eligibility and conduct for collegiate eSports.

E-Sports are multiplayer online video games that are played against other NACE colleges across the country during a fall and spring season. Lakeland’s team will compete in games such as League of Legends, Overwatch, Paladins, Rocket League; Smite, Fortnite, CS:GO and Super Smash Brothers Ultimate. Additional games will be added in the future based on student interest and additions made by NACE.

Lakeland has renovated an existing 3,000-square foot space on the southwest portion of its campus, and its eSports team will practice and compete. The space will feature 18 gaming stations, six consoles, a lounge area and space for spectators to enjoy the action.

The space will also be open to all Lakeland students during designated hours for intramural programs and individual student use. Lakeland currently has an eSports club and more than 30 students are involved, and that interest helped fuel Lakeland’s decision to create a varsity team.
Teaching our teachers

When Mehraban Khodavandi arrived at Lakeland's rural campus in 1981, he, like many others, planned on just a short stay that would serve as a stepping stone to something much bigger.

Khodavandi, a dignified gentleman who followed his own rules and wore a suit to class everyday (and was named Lakeland’s best dressed professor) also had the same rules in their own classrooms. “The most successful classes are those where you see a change in behavior,” he said. “After only one year, we could see the difference the program was making.”

No foul language.

Be there 15 minutes before the class starts.

No hats, sweatpants, or flip flops; dress professionally.

No cell phones.

No chewing gum.

You don’t go to meetings late, or sit and look at the clock and give the impression you want to get out of there,” he said. “It’s amazing that in 39 years nobody ever tested (the rules), the students all complied. The funny thing is that nobody ever tested (the rules), the students all complied. The funny thing is that after the first couple of months I knew there was no way I could leave; I felt I belonged here. What I didn’t know then was just how much this place would become home, and for how long. But, if I had to do it all over again, I would want to do this kind of job and do it at Lakeland.”

The sense of community became a hallmark of Khodavandi’s classroom, where he was a no-nonsense teacher who pushed his students to excel. “The students who graduated through Lakeland’s undergraduate and graduate programs have become decision makers who are writing curriculum for their country and serving as directors of schools. You could see the progress in human capital.”

Central Association of Colleges and Schools liaisons, Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) liaisons, chief academic officer of the Milwaukee Teacher Education Center (MTEC) and co-director of the Malawi Teacher Education Program. Under his leadership, Lakeland’s education program developed into one of the best in the state. “I am grateful that thousands of students who werecertified through Lakeland’s education program are now teaching in Wisconsin, throughout the U.S. and around the world,” Khodavandi said.

Through Khodavandi’s initiatives, the MTEC program led to hundreds of students achieving alternative certification to teach in Milwaukee Public Schools in special education, teaching and other content areas that lacked teachers.” “The most successful classes are those where you see a change in behavior,” he said. “After only one year, we could see the difference the program was making.”

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When Mehraban Khodavandi arrived at Lakeland’s rural campus in 1981, he, like many others, planned on just a short stay that would serve as a stepping stone to something much bigger.

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When Mehraban Khodavandi arrived at Lakeland’s rural campus in 1981, he, like many others, planned on just a short stay that would serve as a stepping stone to something much bigger.
Admired for her ability to connect not only to knowledge and information, but deep understanding as it applies to the bigger picture. Please don’t expect to skim the surface when you engage with Pam – it’s a waste of her precious, innominate time! Controversial subjects and tough conversations? Grab your coffee and notebook – I promise you are going to learn a few things. And don’t ask her to be on a committee to simply check the box. Never short on opinions, suggestions and opportunities, Pam was a powerhouse for problem solving and generating new approaches.

Santino Laster ’05
Supervision of security, Froedtert Hospital

Pam is such a special teacher and mentor. She cared for you, but by the same token, held you accountable. Pam allowed me to grow and to find myself by allowing me to not make excuses, and not giving me the answers. I didn’t realize at the time that she was teaching me to navigate life. Pam so graciously helped me step out of my comfort zone. When I wanted to quit, she pushed me to go further. This her philosophy. She always wanted to empower and create an environment of learning from mistakes. She was always empowering you to never give in to the pressures that will give you the mindset to want to walk away. Because of Pam, I have persevered and kept on my journey, and I will teach and mentor my children the same way.

Barkha (Limbu) Daily ’07
Owner/chef, the wheel and the loaves

I took a writing class with Pam in college which literally transformed the way I write. Being a non-native speaker of the English language, writing was always a challenge. I focused more on grammar and errors instead of the real subject. That’s because I learned English as a second language and was always worried about the correctness of the paper. I remember clearly when she said, “Just start writing! Write everything your heart and mind desires on the subject. Do not worry about each sentence and word. You can always go back and change.” She never made me feel small because of my weakness, but showed that there was room for me to grow. She was always kind, ready to help and her door was always open, just like her heart. She introduced the process of critical thinking to us. She reminded us all the time not to look at subject matter the way it appears, but to look at it from multiple perspectives and question everything. She never told us what to think, she taught us how to think. She inspired and motivated us to be better people. Her influence on my life can never be erased.

Zach Mock ’19
Corporate Services Coordinator, 2021 Ryder Cup

As a freshman in Pam’s honors class, it was the best way I could have ever started my college career. The best aspect of Pam’s class is how she made everyone feel like a valued member of the group. Pam’s goal was not just to get through another semester with a group of students. She wanted to make strong, model Muskies out of us. The skills she taught us are skills that I continue to think about today as I continue my post-graduate career path.

I learned many things having Pam as a teacher and mentor, but two of the most important lessons I have learned are that go-to people will receive the best opportunities, and always take the time to self-reflect. Pam was always a model go-to teacher, and someone students could depend on. I consistently work to follow in her footsteps and model her behavior in my daily life. Having that attitude that says you’re ready to help was enforced by watching Pam as a teacher and mentor. Anytime I went into Pam’s office, she would want to know how I was doing. Whether it was a life was going, classes, etc. Whenever her students were having problems in life, or school, Pam was able to put the counselor hat on. She helped students solve problems on their own by having them self-evaluate and discover the solution to their problems by talking it out. The amount of “aha” moments I experienced with Pam really helped me as a student and as a leader.

Austin Hansen ’19
Corporate Services Coordinator, 2021 Ryder Cup

When I was a freshman coming into Lakeland it was my goal to get in and get out as quickly as possible. My first Pam class was CORE I. Pam made me slow down and think constantly, not just to rush through things like I had planned. Topics of discussion that I thought were totally unrelated to my major (business), Pam would prove to me how all things are related. I never thought of my class as being a business class, but rather a class that would teach me how to live. Everything she taught me has helped me throughout my life. I am so thankful to have had the chance to learn from her. Pam was always a model mentor, and someone students could always depend on. I have worked to follow in her footsteps and model her behaviors in my daily life. Having that attitude that says you’re ready to help was enforced by watching Pam as a teacher and mentor. Anytime I went into Pam’s office, she would want to know how I was doing. Whether it was a life was going, classes, etc. Whenever her students were having problems in life, or school, Pam was able to put the counselor hat on. She helped students solve problems on their own by having them self-evaluate and discover the solution to their problems by talking it out. The amount of “aha” moments I experienced with Pam really helped me as a student and as a leader.

Throughout her four decades of serving as an educator, the students were always front and center for Pam Engebretson. She retired at the end of this past academic year, igniting tributes from former students as news of her retirement was shared. A member of the Lakeland family beginning in 1988, Engebretson served Lakeland as both a staff and faculty member at the main campus and our centers. She became known for being a teacher with high standards who both challenged and advocated for her students.

She eventually transitioned to full-time faculty where she was assistant professor of interdisciplinary studies. She coordinated LU’s Honors Program and advocated for her students. Throughout her four decades of serving as an educator, the students were always front and center for Pam Engebretson. She retired at the end of this past academic year, igniting tributes from former students as news of her retirement was shared. A member of the Lakeland family beginning in 1988, Engebretson served Lakeland as both a staff and faculty member at the main campus and our centers. She became known for being a teacher with high standards who both challenged and advocated for her students.

They took the different settings – the classroom, residence halls, etc. – and used them to their advantage. Pam was always a go-to teacher, and someone students could depend on. I consistently worked to follow in her footsteps and model her behavior in my daily life. Having that attitude that says you’re ready to help was enforced by watching Pam as a teacher and mentor. Anytime I went into Pam’s office, she would want to know how I was doing. Whether it was a life was going, classes, etc. Whenever her students were having problems in life, or school, Pam was able to put the counselor hat on. She helped students solve problems on their own by having them self-evaluate and discover the solution to their problems by talking it out. The amount of “aha” moments I experienced with Pam really helped me as a student and as a leader.

Lisa Stephan ’90 MAC ’06
Executive director, Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization

I met Pam in the late 80s when I was finishing up my undergrad degree at Lakeland. She was hired as the director of residence life. Pam was always an educator at heart – training, leadership development and capitalizing on teachable moments outside of the classroom. When I returned to Lakeland in the early 90’s to join the staff, Pam had joined the faculty and was teaching full time. Over the years, her teaching load changed around a bit, but she never lost her core practice of meeting students where they were at, hearing them out, challenging them to do just a little bit more than they believed they could and celebrating student victories.

One of her biggest contributions was the Myers Briggs Type Indicator. Pam was familiar with the instrument and consistently requested that I share the assessment with her students, whether it was a CORE I class, freshmen Honors, Learning Skills or CORE III. Pam was a strong advocate for students learning their preferences and understanding differences. We laughed, shared many “aha” moments and carried an unspoken understanding of human behavior through the MBTI. I still see students share MBTI tidbits and reflections through social media that they learned while studying with Pam.
Women of influence

Lakeland was well represented as Insight magazine named the winners of its inaugural Women of Influence Awards. Five alumnae were chosen by a panel of judges to be honored for their positive contributions to their communities.

President Jill Wagner said, ‘It is an honor to recognize the work these women have done in their communities.”

Charlene Ensweiler, President of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, is the winner of the 2019 Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award. Ensweiler was chosen to receive this award in honor of her dedication to public service. She is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association, pre- sented with the Improving Student Achievement Award for exemplary journalism. He received the 2016 JEA’s Medal of Merit Award for significant contributions to high school publications and journalism programs outside of their primary employment. He also received the 2014 JEA’s Medal of Merit Award for significant contributions in the Art Teacher’s section of the website for sending a message about the mission in the Fond Doux, Haiti. Anyone desiring to hear more of the mission should contact John at jguard@ttu.edu.

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has long been recognized for his community contributions, including being named the 2013 Sheboygan County Young Professional of the Year Award, the 2014 Outstanding Recent Alumni Award from Lakeland and one of Madison365's 48 Most Powerful Latinos in Wisconsin.


ded profession at strategic policy and exec-
utive leadership levels. He is one of approxi- 
mately 200 professional emergency managers to graduate from this program.

Parish Widster MAC '95, of Green Bay, Wis., was promoted late last year from sales to a leadership role, Administrative Services Unit Supervisor at CONNECT powered by American Family Insurance. He has been with the company for three years.

2005
Jose Araujo MBA '09, of Sheboygan, Wis., was an associate marketing manager at Kohler R&B Latin America, was the recipient of the His-panic Professional of Greater Milwaukee and received a Leadership Award. Jose

2010
Celine (Eltinga) Fauparh and her husband, Ben, welcomed baby boy number two, Ryan Eltinga Fauparh, on March 2, 2020. He joins older brother Calvin at the family home in Heredos, Vz. She is director of talent ac-
quition at Pgyotus USA.

Sara (Roberts) Hall and her husband, Darren, celebrated the birth of Carolyn Elizabeth Hall on May 21, 2020. She joins older brother Dylan at the family home in Escanaba, Mich. Sara is administrative assistant at UPSB Fi-
cancial Services.

Maria (Santilli) Rogers MBA '12 and her husband, Nick, welcomed Emma Jo Rogers on April 27, 2020. They live in Milwaukee, Wis. Members of the wedding party included Sam Schroeder '11 MAC '13, Erica is tax R accounting manager at Green-

Stone Farm Credit Services.

Cathy Simms started a new job last fall as a Life Enrichment Coordinator at Foothills Place, an Enlivant Assisted Living community, in Tustin, Calif.

2012
Sam (Schell) Clark and Craig Clark '14 wel-
comed their first child, Baker Thomas Clark, on May 21, 2020. He was 20.75 inches and weighed 9 pounds, 9 ounces. Sam is senior wellness coordinator at Network Health Insurance in Menasha, Wis. Craig is a fifth grade teacher at Carl Engle Elementary School in Oshkosh, Wis. The family lives in Appleton, Wis.

2013
Brandy Myofada, of Edgar, Wis., graduated from Trinity School of Medicine in 2019 with a Doctorate of Medicine (M.D.). In 2019, she matched into a family medicine residen-
ty with the University of Wisconsin Wausau Program at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. She is currently a PGY-1 family medicine resident physician at Aspirus.

Kimberly (Dejong) Czarnesky recently com-
pleted a Master of Science degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Capella University. She is a clinical program therapist with the Minnesota Sex Offender Program in Lakeville, Minn.

2014
Brenda Hazelwood is working as a case man-
ger with Whole Health Clinical Group in Milwaukee, Wis. Email: Brenda.hazelwood@mcfi.net

2015
Kendrick Burks married Britannie Malwitz '15 on March 20, 2020, at a vow-renewal wedge-
ning ceremony attended by Alyssa (Nelson) Di-
ninger '12, Lindsay (Rogers) Klabeck '12, Kristina (Illian) Gueary '12, Ashley (Johnson) Hall '15, Jessica (Carver) Malwitz '16, LeShay Jones '16, Patrick Johnson '16, Marvin Wardfield '16, Demonta Hall '15, Joshua Gay '16, Tiffi Randolph. He is a special education teacher at the Elcho School District. Tiffi is also a former Lakeland student.

Our alumni are represented in a variety of work environments. There are many options for alumni to connect with our Cooperative Education program, including mentoring, practice interviews, job shadows and informational viewing and guest speaking.

Visit Lakeland.edu/get-involved or contact the Career Readiness office at career@lakeland.edu

Do you have an opportunity to connect with a Muskie? Yes.

We love seeing Muskies return to campus for alumni athletic games. Our basketball and vol-
leyball programs all held events this past year.

We look forward to seeing you again next year!
Callie Olson married Tyler Best on July 27, 2019, in Lexington, Ky. Bailey Grayvold ’18 was a member of the wedding party. She is director of operations at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harrison and Crawford Counties in Southern Indiana. She also went from chaplain candidate to chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Christine (Goldschmidt) Rumley, of Bountiful, Utah, works at Oldkoh Corporation in their Global Procurement & Supply Chain Department.

Matthew Yancy, of Bonduel, Wis., works at Schneider National. He is living in Green Bay, Wis., with Meghan Etten ’18.

Taylor Bush is a residential care specialist for Facebook and the couple lives in Renton, Wash.

Virginia (Lehman) Beer ’48 of Beachwood, Ohio, on June 5, 2019.

Clorinda (Schmidt) Morris ’37 of Smyrna, N.Y., on Sept. 30, 2019.

Eleanor (Wildt) Zeth ’48 of Manitowoc, Wis., on Sept. 25, 2019.

Virginia (Lemholt) Ber ’48 of Beachwood, Ohio, on June 5, 2019.


Joan (Kinkel) Mahon ’50 of Fond du Lac, Wis., on Aug. 22, 2019.

Delberg Schmidt ’51 of West Bend, Wis., on July 9, 2019.

George Degen ’52 of Plymouth, Wis., on June 1, 2019.


Mary Anne Deehlke ’54 of Racine, Wis., on June 1, 2019.


Judith Baumer ’55 of Plymouth, Wis., on July 13, 2019.

Maynard Beemer ’55 of Appleton, Wis., on Aug. 6, 2019.

Marilyn (Bierbaum) Frost ’58 of Byron, Minn., on Nov. 8, 2019.


Jerry Fleckiger ’58 of Bonduel, Wis., on Oct. 6, 2019.

Richard Hammann ’58 of Franklinville, Wis., on Dec. 25, 2019.

DeLyle (Jenkins) Henschen ’60 of Waupaca, Wis., on June 17, 2020.

Diana (Peters) Diederich ’61 of Oconomowoc, Wis., on Oct. 21, 2019.


Dennis Allen ’62 of Menomonee Falls, Wis., on June 11, 2019.


Clairen Dreyer ’66 of Plymouth, Wis., on May 31, 2019.


Ronald Thanning ’66 of Sheboygan, on Aug. 23, 2019.

Wesley Sukely ’66 of Kansas City, Mo., on Dec. 29, 2019.

Jill (Randell) Palmer ’67 of Le Sueur, Minn., on April 24, 2020.

Barbara (Glasier) Bassewitz ’68 of Napoleon, Fla., on Nov. 18, 2019.


Charles Kellogg ’69 of Wausau, Wis., on July 13, 2019.

Mary Meade ’69 of Wauwatosa, Wis., on June 13, 2019.


Gary Meade ’69 of Wauwatosa, Wis., on June 13, 2019.

Jean Schuster ’70 of Sheboygan, on Dec. 29, 2019.

Robert Zaininger ’70 of Sandburg, Ill., on Nov. 26, 2019.

Ronald Kneuper ’70 of Plymouth, Wis., on Dec. 25, 2019.

William Munnis ’70 of Sheboygan, on June 18, 2019.

Jeffrey Love ’70 of Fort Collins, Colo., on July 31, 2019.


Rachel Rust and Kyle Hemb ’20 got engaged on May 22, 2020. Dakota is a staff accountant at General A. Larson in Plover, Wis., and Kayla is a financial analyst at Fiserv in Brookfield.

Dylan Lange has received a Research Assistantship in the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders at Northern Illinois University (NIU). He is in his first year in the Doctoral of Physical Therapy (DPT) program at NIU. His research work includes evaluating the clinical decision-making of therapists in the Inpatient Rehabilitation setting.

Taylor Bush is a residential care specialist for Facebook and the couple lives in Renton, Wash.

Summer Larederle, of Raleigh, N.C., is a tax manager at Faith Bynum, CPA, PC.

Callie Olson married Tyler Best on July 27, 2019, in Lexington, Ky. Bailey Grayvold ’18 was a member of the wedding party. She is director of operations at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harrison and Crawford Counties in Southern Indiana. She also went from chaplain candidate to chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Dakota Hunter and Kayla Hemb ’20 got engaged on May 22, 2020. Dakota is a staff accountant at General A. Larson in Plover, Wis., and Kayla is a financial analyst at Fiserv in Brookfield.

Burlin ’15 and Brandon Hagstrom ’16, Kautz is assistant men’s basketball coach at Lake- land. Gaby is director of communications at Engaged Marketing. The couple lives in Howard Grove.

2015

Andrew “Andy” Crivellone proposed in January during a wrestling tournament to his girlfriend, Morgan, who said yes. Andy is a special education teacher and wrestling coach at the University of Minnesota Crookston.

Román Johnson married Alexandra Lazare- by on Dec. 13, 2019. Román is a忻 orphanage admission counselor at Marian University in Fond du Lac, Wis.

Bryan Skelton was promoted to coordinator of intramurals, club sports and camps/assis- tant basketball coach at Dominican University in River Forest, Ill. This summer he has worked as a part-time assistant basketball coach for the past three seasons.

2017

Kayla Clark received a master of business ad- ministration degree from Averno University. She returned to Lakeland this summer as an assistant women’s basketball coach.

Matt Stohl is living in Cape Girardeau, Mo., where he is assistant volleyball coach at Southeast Missouri State University.

Mason Eusey is a senior sales account executive at Schneider National. He is living in Green Bay, Wis., with Meghan Ettner ’18.

2019

Taylor Bush is a residential care specialist working with non-verbal autistic children at Genesee Lake School in Oconomowoc, Wis. Kyle Domsick married his wife, Olivia, on Sept. 21, 2019. Pat McDonald ’19 was a member of the wedding party. Kyle is a con- tent analyst for Facebook and the couple lives in Austin, Texas. He also recently started a business, KD Decals, designing decals for car/bicycles.
Lakeland Promise helps address debt crisis

As determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), is less than $1,700 will also qualify for the design-adjusted household income. Students will need an unweighted high school transcript grade point average of 2.75 or higher.

Additional details are available at Lakeland.edu/promise.

UPD part of national student success pilot

Lakeland has partnered with the college readiness and student success platform RaiseMe to launch a micro-scholarship program for qualified students. The program allows current presence and retention for current college students, will reward students with personalized, incremental and achievement-based scholarships ranging from $10 to $100 each to be applied toward tuition in the following academic year. Lakeland students can earn up to $750 in scholarships per academic year. Initially, the program is for students enrolled in Lakeland’s traditional program main campus.

“By completing activities like mapping out a four-year plan with their academic advisor, uploading their professional resume on Handshake, joining a student organization, attending check-ins and more, RaiseMe’s micro-scholarship program rewards our students for building engagement and community,” said Pollyatte, Lakeland’s vice president for enrollment management.

Programs like this and our Cooperative Education program, which allows students to work part-time and full-time jobs at co-op partner companies. Wages from co-op jobs, along with federal loans and outside scholarships, can be used for textbooks, room and board, and other expenses.

The Lakeland Promise is for in-state dependent students whose household adjusted gross income of less than $15,000. Students whose expected family contribution (EFC), as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is less than $1,700 will also qualify for the design-adjusted household income. Students will need an unweighted high school transcript grade point average of 2.75 or higher.

While this opportunity is available to students in all majors, studying in Washington D.C., New York, Philadelphia and Chicago, the program will also have the opportunity to travel to the partner university. Stays can last one semester or the entire academic year. Both institutions will also pursue opportunities for the exchange of students.

Populous collegia series features alumni

Lakeland continued its popular collegia series this past year. The programs allow current students to hear from accomplished alumni in a panel discussion, followed by small breakout sessions.

The Schollkoch School of Business and Entrepreneurship Colloquium featured:
• Matthew Baness ’14, senior legal risk management officer, Liberty Mutual.
• Rachel Ojala Dumke ’96, talent development manager, First Bank Financial Center.
• Jonathan Rindt ’05, senior portfolio manager and financial advisor, Thedrv Financial.

In addition to their coursework, Lakeland students will also have access to free German language, history and culture courses, as well as participation in an International Friends Program for German and international students with activities and trips to locations throughout Germany.

Additional details are available at Lakeland.edu/promise.

Student opportunities at Japan campus expanded

A new partnership between Lakeland and Virginia Wesleyan University will expand opportunities for students attending the campus that was founded by Lakeland almost 30 years ago.

These exciting opportunities include expanded programming and co-branding of international possibilities under the name Lakeland Japanese University Japan and Virginia Wesleyan University Global.

Students starting at Lakeland University Wisconsin, Lakeland University Japan and Virginia Wesleyan University will have access to a variety of pathways that include studying in Tokyo, Wisconsin and/or Virginia. The pathways include completion of a soon-to-be-approved bachelor’s degree in business administration at the Tokyo campus, which will allow students to complete their education at any of the locations.

LJU is truly an international university, teaching more than 300 students from 50 countries. Its English speaking degree program is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and LJU is one of two approved American universities approved by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to operate in Japan.

The will create stronger study abroad opportunities for international students in the United States. The addition of a school on the East Coast will provide international students who study at Virginia Wesleyan easy access to places like Washington D.C., New York, Philadelphia and Boston.

LJU and VWU students and faculty will also have the opportunity to travel to the Tokyo campus, which is located in Shinjuku, part of Tokyo’s central government and business district.

Lakeland University announces partnership

Lakeland’s latest study abroad opportunity for its students is hosted in the homeland of settlers who founded the institution more than 150 years ago.

Lakeland and the Eslingen University of Applied Sciences, located in Eslingen, Germany, signed a cooperation agreement earlier this year. The City of Sheboygan and Eslingen have sister cities for more than 50 years, and Sheboygan officials played a major role in helping make the partnership happen.

Students attending Lakeland or Eslingen will be able to learn and live at the partner university. Stays can last one semester or the entire academic year. Both institutions will also pursue opportunities for the exchange of students.

Additional details are available at Lakeland.edu/promise.

The Lakeland Promise is for in-state dependent students whose household adjusted gross income of less than $15,000. Stu-
management and leadership program and also serves as director of athletics, joined Lakeland’s faculty as a full-time member in 2007 after serving for years as an adjunct instructor and coach. She was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 2010.

Pickhardt joined Lakeland as a full-time biology faculty member in 2006 after serving as a post-doctorate research associate at Stony Brook University and Dartmouth College. He was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 2012.

Ying, a member of the education faculty, joined Lakeland in 2004 and was awarded tenure in 2010. He has taught a wide variety of courses in the education program and in the general education sequence, with regular delivery of courses in educational technology, lower-level mathematics and education.

McGovern, who teaches biochemistry and chemistry, joined Lakeland’s faculty in 2002 and is in its sixth year of full-time tenure-track service. McGovern came to Lakeland from Carroll University where he was an adjunct lecturer and served as a postdoctoral industry consultant at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Jenkins joined Lakeland University-Japan as a full-time history faculty member in 2013. He teaches American history and government courses at the Tokyo campus, and he has provided institutional service on scholarship committees, search committees and policy committees.

LU biology prof part of Alaskan research
Lakeland Professor of Biology Paul Pickhardt travelled to the tundra of Alaska last summer as an invited scientist and fourth member of a research team headed by zoologists and conservation scientists.

The team, which included researchers from Georgetown University, Carroll University and the Smithsonian Institution, was part of a large migratory connectivity project. Their goal was to capture previously masked birds and mark hundreds of different species to help find conservation solutions for threatened migratory birds.

Two of the four researchers involved are the lead and senior authors of a highly respected Science magazine report, documenting bird declines of 2.9 billion across North America in the last half century.

The research team spent two weeks searching for previously banded and tagged birds. All of the handled and captured birds were successfully released to their nesting areas and were monitored to ensure that the birds were not negatively impacted from their capture and tracking devices.

“As optimistic that my participation in this collaborative research could provide summer research and/or graduate school opportunities for Lakeland science students interested in bird research and/or conducting field research associated with migratory bird species,” Pickhardt said.

LU staff testify in Madison
Sue Balsk, associate director of financial aid and educational funding, testified this spring on behalf of Lakeland in favor of the Veterans Bill for Private College/ University Students in front of a committee of the state legislature. Patty Taylor, senior director of financial aid and educational funding, earlier testified with a different committee in favor of the same bill, which would allow veterans who wish to attend WU campuses more access to financial aid.

Ulrich Scholars program thriving
Lakeland’s Ulrich Scholars program, which identifies leadership and learning opportunities for students studying religion, is flourishing. This past year there were nine Ulrich Scholars attending Lakeland who were studying as a religion major or minor; two graduated in May.

The program is funded in part by an endowed fund established in memory of the Rev. Reinhard Ulrich, Ph.D., long-time Lakeland philosophy professor and noted United Church of Christ theologian.

As part of their education, Ulrich Scholars must develop and implement a social justice project that involves the wider community. Some examples of recent activity:

• One scholar completed an internship with the chaplain at the Sharon Richardson Hospice.
• Two scholars helped other LU students in a project to address food insecurity for students in the Sheboygan Area School District.
• One scholar helped start a faith-sharing group, Catholic Musiques, and volunteers to help teach confirmation for the catholics in the area.
• The scholars have served food to the homeless in Milwaukee, hosted a Latin

Lakeland partnered with Jefferson Elementary School in Sheboygan to do a student exchange. Jefferson students spent a day at Lakeland, and LU students spent a day at Jefferson so the children could interact with college-age role models.

Members of Kim Vigliti’s Logistics & Supply course toured Master’s Gallery Foods’ Plymouth facility to see their automated lines and learn how the company deals with supply chain, aging debt, investment strategies and real estate. He also co-authored “Then and Now,” a new section in the “Economic Episodes in American History” textbook, The section provides a new resource for teachers in comparing the economic impact of COVID-19 to the Spanish Flu.

Lisa Koenecke, an adjunct instructor in Lakeland’s Master of Arts in Counseling program, has published a book entitled, “Be an Inclusion Ally: ABCs of

no simulation experience and helped lead a Blessing of the Animals service at its campus.

Beginning this fall, the Ulrich Scholars program will award one full tuition scholarship and $20,000 in scholarships.

New Sheboygan County School named
Lakeland University is welcoming its sixth class of Sheboygan County Scholars to campus this fall. This program examines some of the area’s most promising young people and prepares them to assume future leadership positions within the region.

The Class of 2024 includes:
• Alycia Herr, a graduate of Sheboygan North High School.
• Allison Klemme, a graduate of Sheboygan Falls High School.
• Ethan Lübke, a graduate of Plymouth High School.
• Sam Scharenbroch, a graduate of Sheboygan South High School.

Students are selected as part of a competitive process and receive a full-tuition scholarship to attend Lakeland. The program fosters the intellectual development, professional networking and leadership skills of the next generation of Sheboygan County’s corporate, professional and civic leaders.

Up to four students are selected. Upon acceptance into the program, scholars will be expected to excel academically, become involved in campus life and the Sheboygan community through volunteer opportunities and maintain the highest ethical standards.

The scholars will have bi-annual gatherings at Lakeland, where they will travel to Dartmouth College. He was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 2010. He has taught a wide variety of courses in the education program and in the general education sequence, with regular delivery of courses in educational technology, lower-level mathematics and education.

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The scholars will have bi-annual gatherings at Lakeland, where they will travel to Dartmouth University and the Smithsonian Institution. Three LU students and three faculty members were among the speakers for the event in the Bradley Theatre. The speakers and their topics were:

• Randall Moye (Lakeland student) – Using a positive mindset to overcome adversity.
• Maia Reid (LU student) – Lifelong learning.
• Emily Sonntag (LU student) – Evolving the training of educators.
• Yaron Zoller (LU business faculty) – Inclusion, not just diversity.
• Mary Dannzl (LU Adjunct Faculty) – Changing our communication with the dying.
• Lisa Koenecke (LU Adjunct faculty) – Changing from a bystander to an ally.
• Marilyn Bogenhofer – Mentality helps people navigate the world.
• Marissa Jablonski – Developing a new relationship with plastics.
• Tony Martinucci – Diets aren’t the answer.

Lakeland’s TEDx event also includes a screening of TED Talks videos. TEDx events are planned and coordinated independently, under a free licence granted by TED. TED, which stands for Technology, Entertainment and Design, is a media organization which posts talks online for free distribution, under the dogma ideas worth spreading. The TEDx Program is designed to help communities, organizations and individuals to spark conversation and connection through local TED-like experiences.

Lakeland teachers published
Scott Niederlaender, the vice president for Cooperative Education and economic development, co-authored a new book titled Financially Fit: Economists’ Advice for Educators.” Teachers can use the book as a reliable, case study to dispense practical financial advice to educators. The book consists of 14 chapters covering a comprehensive group of topics specifically curated for educators teaching at the K-12 and university level, including savings for retirement, managing
In nominating Brickham, students offered these thoughts:

Monique is one of the main reasons that I chose to come to Lakeland. On my second visit I was able to interact with her and instantly I knew I liked her. She is so enthusiastic about graphic design that it makes me more passionate about all my studies.

It takes a good professor to put in extra office hours for their students, but it takes an incredible professor to be there for students when we are texting at two in the morning. She continually goes above and beyond for her students.

Her involvement with local businesses and non-profits goes above and beyond what professors normally do. You can tell that she truly cares about her students and what they’re doing. She’s a great mentor.

It’s the little piece of knowledge that it makes me more passionate about my studies.
Lakeland was honored by U.S. News & World Report among the best schools in the Midwest region in advancing social mobility for its students.

Lakeland tied for 33rd among Top Performers on Social Mobility among regional universities in the Midwest and was third best in Wisconsin.

“Economically disadvantaged students are less likely than others to finish college, even when controlling for other characteristics. But some colleges are more successful than others at advancing social mobility by enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students awarded with Pell Grants.”